

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

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R 241130Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9748

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 3563

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: SAYYID MAR'I ELECTED SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

1. TO SURPRISE OF NONE, PRESIDENT SADAT' S CLOSE FRIEND AND IN-LAW, SAYYID MAR'I, DEFEATED LEFTIST MP MAHMUD AL-QADI IN OCT 23 ELECTION OF SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. MAR'I WON 278 OF POSSIBLE 315 VOTES. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE INTENDS TO RESIGN HIS POSITION AS SYG OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 16, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE IN ROME. HE WILL ALSO RESIGN POSITION AS ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. ALI AL-SAYYID ALI AND GAMAL OTIEIFI WERE BOTH RE-ELECTED AS DEPUTY SPEAKERS, HAVING RUN UNOPPOSED.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS FULL BIO INFO ON SAYYID MAR' . AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER AND GENTLEMAN FARMER, HE IS AN OLD AND VALUED FRIEND OF PRESIDENT SADAT. MAR'S SON IS MARRIED TO SADAT'S YOUNGER DAUGHTER. MAR'I COULD PROBABLY HAVE HAD PRIME MINISTERSHIP FOR ASKING, BUT
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NOT SURPRISINGLY, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DECLINED THE POST THIS

YEAR. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE LET IT BE KNOWN HE WOULD ACCEPT NO APPOINTIVE OFFICE, SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO ALLOW RUMORS OF NEPOTISM TO BEGIN. SPEAKER'S JOB NO DOUBT SUITS HIM BETTER ANYWAY, SINCE BESIDES BEING ELECTIVE, IT PUTS HIM NEXT IN LINE TO SUCCEED DECEASED OR INCAPACITATED PRESIDENT. FURTHER, SPEAKER'S DUTIES ARE NOT ONEROUS OR TIME-COMUSMING. IN ANY CASE, ECONOMIC TASKS OF PRIME MINISTERSHIP SIMPLY DO NOT INTEREST HIM.

4. CHARMING, INFORMAL, AND SOPHISTICATED, MAR'I IS OF UPPER MIDDLE CLASS BACKGROUND. HAD THERE BEEN TWO PARTIES IN EGYPT- RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST-HE AND MARXIST MP AL-QADI WOULD HAVE BEEN AMONG NATURAL LEADERS OF THE TWO GROUPS. IT IS PERHAPS WORTH RECALLING THAT MAR'I WAS WELL KNOWN AS SAADIST AFTER WW II. THUS, AS A FORMER PARTY ADHERENT AND A SUPPORTER OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIVATE

ENTERPRISE IN AGRARIAN SECTOR, THE NEW SPEAKER IS QUITE A CHANGE FROM HIS LITTLE RESPECTED, DO-NOTHING, "ARAB SOCIALIST" PREDECESSOR. EILTS

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